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## Looking to the future: are we more autonomous or more independent?

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The author asks whether journalists are heading towards a higher degree of autonomy in carrying out their profession or are destined towards a dependence which is becoming more and more subtle. He believes that there is a kind of intuition in finding oneself at a time of transition, of change, of hypothetical alternatives. A time when journalism highlights social and technological changes. The experience of this author centres on the world of audiovisual communication: radio and television. He points out substantial differences between these and the written press. The newspapers have more time for research and provide more possibilities for reflection. Radio and television journalism, however, has a great social impact. After detailing the characteristics of each of these media, Balcells asks what type of reading should be made of the predominant factors in present-day communication. The strength of the image is imposing itself and, on radio, opinion and political debate are becoming established, the latter of these pontificating on things both divine and human.

For the future, communication needs to be gone into in more depth. The journalist needs to be provided with all the tools which will enable him to go further into the world of communication without losing his personality and professional autonomy. The Faculties, the professional Association and personal rigour, will be useful tools in order to attain ethical levels in carrying out the profession.

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